

# THE SATURDAY REVIEW

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SIXPENCE

THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR continues to confound the experts. A few months ago it was confidently assumed that General Franco's forces would capture Madrid and that the days of the Government resistance were numbered, except in the extreme East of Spain. The Reds, heavily reinforced by foreign supporters, put up an unexpectedly vigorous defence. They were aided by the Nationalists themselves who, forgetting the lesson learnt in the Great War that there is no fortress more formidable than a big town, struck at the city itself instead of aiming at its communications. The pendulum of war seemed to swing over to the Government side and the adherents of the Red cause looked forward to certain victory as soon as Bolsheviks and Anarchists had attained some degree of harmony. Now General Franco has captured Malaga, and it is to be hoped that he will establish there a Government as stable as now exists in all the territories under his control. It is to be noted that few of his foreign allies seem to have taken part in the assault which has provided him with a valuable harbour and confirms his command of the Straits of Gibraltar. It is a thousand pities that the Nationalists failed to obtain complete control of the fleet before they rose against the weakness and blunders of their rulers. If they had, the civil war would now be over and Spain would possess a Government that it could understand instead of being a battleground for foreigners.

ONE OF THE MAIN results of the fall of Malaga will be the release of a number of troops further North, and it is possible that their appearance at this critical moment in the neighbourhood of Madrid may prove decisive, if only General Franco will shake himself free of that Spanish tradition of "mañana," which has already defeated so many of his plans. It seems certain that his forces are threatening, if they have not actually cut, the communications of the capital with Valencia. A success at this point of the sporadic trouble must eventually lead to the fall of Madrid, and it is only surprising that a similar manoeuvre was not carried out long ago. Catalonia would then be left as the final problem. The Basques could hardly hope to hold out against the Nationalist forces available. Then perhaps the Powers might be able and willing to intervene in the cause of peace instead of fomenting a war which is laying unhappy Spain in ruins.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY is appealing for funds to enable it to uphold its glorious tradition and extend its services in accordance with modern needs. This appeal will meet with more than the support of Oxford men. The demands of the Bodleian Library must be satisfied if the nation is not to be disgraced; for the Bodleian is a national institution. As in the past the rich handed down their names to posterity by founding and maintaining schools and colleges, so to-day the millionaire may hope for enduring fame by contributing to an

institution which is a precious part of our English patrimony. Some Oxford men may doubt whether it would not be wiser to restrict the University's special field to humane studies, leaving the pursuit of science with its narrowing specialities to other Universities, but as things are Oxford cannot stand well and it may be that when science has fallen into its proper place in the scheme of things, the home of lost causes will have exalted it to the rank of the humanities.

THE CENTENARY of Pushkin has been celebrated this week in Soviet Russia with an enthusiasm it is difficult for the foreigner wholly to understand. This fact is due to two causes. In the first place Pushkin has always been extremely hard to translate into another tongue, some of his main excellencies as a poet, namely the purity and crispness of his language and the delicate grace of his rhythm, being incommunicable in a translation. The result has been that few foreigners have been able to discover in Pushkin that remarkable genius with which he is now being credited in Russia. In the next place, Pushkin hardly seemed the type of man who would appeal to the disciples of Communism. True, he wrote odes on liberty and suffered temporary exile for his supposed connection with the Decembrist revolutionaries of 1825. But the fact that he hated the Russian bureaucracy of his day did not make him any less the courtier and aristocrat and it is an ironical fact that some of his finest poems and prose work were written under the personal censorship of a Tsar for whom, if not for his entourage, he seemed to have a warm admiration. The exalting of Pushkin as the Shakespeare of Russia and as a hero the Soviet delights to honour can only be regarded as yet another healthy symptom of the trend of Communist Russia from its old sinister internationalism towards a less disturbing pride in national achievement.

AFTER BEING RETURNED to office by the largest majority in American history, President Roosevelt has some right to feel that he has been given a special commission by the American people to carry through to fruition every particle of his "New Deal" plans. The challenge of "the nine old men in a cellar"—that cellar, by the way, being now a luxurious £2,000,000 building—could clearly not be ignored, and Mr. Roosevelt has met it by inviting Congress to pass a Bill for "the elimination of the congestion of the calendars" and to "render the judiciary as a whole less static by the constant addition of new blood." The Bill empowers the President to appoint an additional Judge to the Supreme Court for every member of it who has not retired at the age of seventy. As six members are already over that age—four of them being "Anti-Dealers"—this means another half dozen Judges will be added to the Court. In other words, the Supreme Court is to be "packed." It is a dangerous experiment,

this attempt to influence judicial decisions by purely party manoeuvres, and it is an experiment, too, that seems certain to encounter serious opposition even in the ranks of Mr. Roosevelt's own political following. But Mr. Roosevelt must have counted the immediate risks before he made his decision. He could not spare the time for the exceedingly slow process of constitutional amendment. This was the quickest way out of his difficulties and, from the politician's point of view, therefore, the best. What matter if after him—the deluge?

**R**ECRUIITS FOR the Regular Army are not stepping along briskly enough for the Government, and a nation-wide appeal is now being planned, it is stated, in which every householder will be deluged with recruiting literature from an organisation similar to that which disseminated the Road Code. Is it worth the expense? Postal propaganda generally goes into the waste-paper basket, and in any case householders are hardly the type of people who can throw up their responsibilities and join the Regular Army, or even the Territorials. An announcement, already overdue, should be made at once on (a) whether rates of pay for recruits are to be increased; (b) whether conditions of service are to be improved, and (c) what definite plans for finding the soldier suitable employment after his term of service are being made. Too many kites are being flown, not only by the Press, but the Government itself, and these are doing more harm than good. The need for men is great; if the Army is to have any additional attractions, now is the time to say so.

**B**OGUS CLUBS, or as Sir John Sykes called them at the annual meeting of the Westminster licensing justices recently, unlicensed drinking shops, are to be the subject of a bill which the Government has undertaken to introduce this session. Sir John, who knows what he is talking about, was seconded from the Board of Education to take charge of the complicated business of drink control during the War, and has done yeoman work, which is bearing much fruit, in favour of "improved public houses." Legislation in this direction has been urged, as he said, by judges, magistrates, and the police, as well as by Church authorities and temperance reformers, on successive Governments. The time for action has certainly arrived, and is only delayed by that strange bugbear known as parliamentary time. Licensing laws in England are riddled with anomalies and inconsistencies. We are on the whole a temperate race, far more so than a century ago when a man could get drunk on two-pennorth of gin. A comprehensive and consolidating act is long overdue. Why not trust the people, and let them have a glass of beer or wine in comfort when they want it? Other countries have proved the success of this policy.

**M**R. C. B. COCHRAN'S Coronation Revue, *Home and Beauty*, at the Adelphi Theatre, falls far below Cochran standards; so does the wit of Mr. A. P. Herbert, who is responsible for the book. Another disappointment is the

performance of the Hungarian star, Gitta Alpar, and but for the great efforts of Binnie Hale and Nelson Keys to put life into a lifeless show we should doubt if the Coronation Revue would ever reach the Coronation. Magnificent dressing, scenery and lighting effects somewhat compensated for a dull evening. *Invitation to a Voyage*, fourth play by Jean-Jacques Bernard to be played at the Gate Theatre, has practically no plot, but this does not mean that it is an uninteresting play. Miss Vivienne Bennett does much to imbue it with emotion, and convince one of the confined atmosphere of life in a self-contained little family, cut off socially, amid the forests of the Vosges. *On Your Toes*, at the Palace Theatre is in American parlance a *wow*, moreover a *wow* with a good plot, and in places is very funny indeed. With the exception of the first scene, which drags a little, there is hardly a dull moment. The subtle burlesque of the Russian Ballet is a masterpiece, the music is lively and catchy, and the dancing good.

**A** BRAND NEW cinema has arisen, like a phoenix from the ashes, on the site of the old Capitol in the Haymarket; this new house, which seats fewer people in much greater comfort than the old one, will be known as the Gaumont, and its opening production is *The Great Barrier*. A British company is responsible for this attempt to tell the story of the making of the C.P.R. Unfortunately, the dialogue is so stilted and the tempo so slow that what should have been a magnificent film is only a mediocre one. A unit, however, was sent to Canada and the scenery is well photographed, but how Richard Arlen, who plays the star part, ever finds his way home again after discovering the pass through the Rockies only the author knows. Last week, also, the English version of *Der Traumende Mund* made its appearance at the Leicester Square with Elizabeth Bergner; her performance in the German film some five or six years ago was outstanding, but neither the subject nor the treatment lend themselves to transplantation.

**B**EFORE MANY PEOPLE have paid their income-tax for the past year, the Stock Exchange is already busy considering what the Chancellor is likely to do about increasing the standard rate in the next Budget, and this is to some extent responsible for the fall in the capital value of British Government securities. The prospect of a £72,000,000 Tithe Loan has also influenced the market adversely, though this large sum is expected to be spread over many months and only to find its way into public hands in comparatively small amounts. But the ordinary small holder of War Loan need not be unduly disturbed by these events, though he may not like to see his stock decline in price. Unless he wishes to sell, the movements are not important, and security of income is the great factor with most holders. At the moment, too, the holder of War Loan or, indeed, any other British Government security, can hardly complain that the price is not high enough. His just plaint is that the income, taxed at 4s. 9d. in the £, is far too small,



## Leading Articles

### "MENS SANA IN CORPORE SANO"

THE Government's plans for the promotion of National Physical fitness have been well received by all parties. There is very little to be said against them, particularly as they do not go very far. The country has always been opposed to excessive centralisation and ample opportunity seems to be provided for the enterprise of local bodies. Naturally there is no question of compulsion. It would be the height of absurdity to compel people to be fit if they are not compelled to defend their country. A system of universal service would be the real solution to the problem. If it is possible in a democratic state like France to have military training for every citizen, it is a mystery why a similar solution should not be possible in this country.

The idea of the healthy mind in the healthy body is essentially a Greek conception. The Hellenes' marvellous sense of equilibrium forced on them the conviction that mind and body were mutually interdependent and equally needed education. This has never been the idea of the East. The Eastern Philosopher is always inclined to regard the body as the enemy of the soul, though an exception must be made in the case of China. There have always been two schools of thought. The ascetic who pinned his faith to the inner life regarded the body as a hindrance and menace to the contemplation of the Divine. On the other hand the school which claimed commonsense as its principle has always set the body before the soul and claimed that health is more important than wisdom. At the breathless moment of the Glory of Athens, humanity for the first and perhaps the last time followed the golden middle path. Wisdom and health, soul and body, were regarded as a single harmony and the result was an achievement of beauty that has never been paralleled. In our unhappy days the outer life is rapidly suppressing the inner. The religion of the machine is stamping out all values and it needs more than a scheme for physical fitness to bring the world back to life.

However, the smallest approach to the Greek ideal is worth praise. In Western Europe the ascetic goal is impossible to reach. An Indian sage would laugh at the idea that nutrition had any connection with thought or feeling apart from the fact that excess and even moderation dull the faculties of the soul. It is certain that endurance has no relation to the amount of nourishment to which any people are accustomed.

The Japanese on a handful of rice, the Spaniards with little more than bread, garlic and wine, the Sicilians with their *pasta* and fruit, suffer gladly certain conditions in which the meat-eating American or Englishman would be broken. The Socialist Opposition's chief criticism of the Government's proposals is that they do not provide for nutrition.

The question of nutrition is one that depends far more on the diet that is adopted than on the provision by the State of ordinary standard meals. We have grown accustomed to depending on supplies from overseas for nearly all our food and the result is that we have neglected those forms of nourishment which nature gives so liberally in our own country. The nutrition problem could be solved firstly by ridding the national mind of endless delusions with regard to food and secondly by concentrating our efforts in this country on producing food that is really nutritious. Civilisation has deprived most forms of food—the "staff of life" included—of about three quarters of their value. Advertisement is filling the stomachs of the nation with substitute foods incapable of producing strength. People who have lived for a fortnight on three oranges a day, retaining their vigour and without discomfort, know how little is really needed to keep a man in health.

In any programme for physical fitness, a true statesman would be careful to add nothing to the games craze. "Games are meant to be played, not watched," should be their motto, and the idea that complicated machinery or intensive training are needed for the enjoyment of a sport should be eradicated. Long ago, Mr. Kipling risked unpopularity by speaking of "the flanneled fool at the wicket" and "the muddled oaf in the goal," but there is something to be remembered in his courageous remark. The saying that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton is attributed to the Iron Duke. It is to be feared that a defeat or two may be attributed to the same cause. To have muscles without brains is a more miserable state of affairs than to have brains without muscle, and to have both brains and muscle without spiritual insight is merely disastrous.

It is a sad comment on our civilisation that artificial measures have to be taken to encourage fitness and due muscular development. The machine is steadily eliminating the use of our muscles. A man with a motor car uses his legs less and less. Riding and walking, the finest of all exercises, promise to become as obsolete as the dodo. Our ancestors were compelled to keep their muscles in good trim and even town life made demands for physical exertion. Dickens must surely have exaggerated the stamina of Mr. Pickwick and his friends in his description of Christmas Eve at Dingley Dell. They began with an uproarious wedding breakfast accompanied with countless glasses of wine and "the mysterious disappearance of both the poor relations beneath the table." After that the males undertook a five-and-twenty miles' walk at Wardle's recommendation and returned ready for dinner and dancing until midnight. Where are the middle-aged folk to-day capable of such Homeric feats?

At any rate we may hope that State-aided or not physical training may be so planned as to retain a real element of pleasure and amusement. A certain amount of drilling may be good, but it is extremely boring and boredom is bad for the human soul. Scientists aver that most of our present military methods are not thoroughly

adapted to the exigencies of the human frame. Stiffness and tightness of muscle may look well on parade, but ease and elasticity are virtues both for mind and body.

## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

THE Press in general and in particular has become more a question of the moment since an article was published in these columns last week. A lively and continuing correspondence has found its way into the *Times* on the subject of legislation to control impertinent and objectionable activities by newspapers. But the longer the correspondence lasts the greater the difficulties appear.

The objections to any sort of State control and the obstacles to control within the industry itself spring from the nature of the case. For the practice of journalism is really unlike any other commercial undertaking and this is due not only to the medium in which it has to work but to the elasticity which must be the essential part of its organisation. In a sense the production of every daily newspaper must be a brilliant—or very far from brilliant—improvisation. Although the fact is somewhat obscured by the magazine character of the modern newspaper, its real business is still to sell news, with views thrown in as a traditional make-weight. If the *Times*, the *Morning Post* and the *Daily Telegraph* were to be published with nothing but leading articles, criticism and “features,” their circulation might remain intact for several days, but if the more popular newspapers were to try the experiment their millions would be gone in a flash. And if the business of a newspaper is to present to its readers every scrap of information which is interesting, exciting, important, amusing and novel; if this must be done in such a way as to capture the latest trifle of the penultimate minute; if it should be done with a constant, eager censorship of morals, taste and political expediency, it is not surprising if, when something has to give way, the censorship caves in.

Everything is done in a frightful hurry and the hurry increases as the minutes slip away. Daily journalism has become a complicated, highly technical, and always commercial undertaking, and it is probably slipping from the grasp of those who imagine themselves to be in control of it. It remains true that a successful newspaper is in a large degree a one-man job. That means that for genuine success one personality has to dominate others. But no one man, however industrious, and however strong in mind and body he might be, could see a daily issue through from beginning to end, from high policy to petty details. Therefore in journalism more than elsewhere the error of taste or judgment has a venomous power all its own.

The extreme case is encountered when news of real importance “breaks” in the not very early hours of the morning. Some comparatively minor administrator has been left in charge. He tears off the tape machine a strip of paper and reads “War imminent Ruritania and Vanitaria Rumoured assassination Stalin Hitler Mussolini Blum Baldwin Roosevelt and President

Association of Flea Producers Tokyo destroyed earthquake. Eruption of Popocatepetl full story follows.” What is he to do? The remaining staff of composing room, foundry, packers, and distributors, are just going home. Is he to spend a little fortune on the off chance of truth or to ignore the whole thing and risk losing the greatest news in the history of the world? If he is a genius, and a stiff-necked rebellious genius at that, he will harden his heart and do one thing or the other at once. If he is sane and prudent he will ring up his editor, managing editor, or night editor and get instructions from a poor wretch called suddenly from oblivion or dreams to make an immediate decision with a still fumbling brain. In either case there is the risk of letting the newspaper down on one side or on the other.

There is also the small difficulty of proprietors. Newspapers must be owned by somebody, either by a single impresario or by a company with a chairman and directors. And this is common to all proprietors, because it is a part of human nature. They want their newspapers to say what they think and they want it to be a commercial success because, even if they seek no financial reward, they realise that an unsuccessful newspaper cannot add weight to the opinions they wish to express. It would be totally unreasonable to expect the owners of newspapers not to fight for the causes in which they believe, not to give publicity to the things which interest and amuse them, or to leave majestically to competitors in their own class the most lucrative fields of journalistic activity because they themselves believe these fields to be muddy and poisonous.

In any order of things it would be impossible to eliminate the personal whims of those who control newspapers—in any order of things which was consonant with political and constitutional freedom. So that, even when there is a very general opinion that the ignorance, vulgarity and irresponsibility of a considerable part of the Press is deplorable, it is extremely difficult to devise means for checking it without doing more harm than good.

The suggestion that the individual journalist, duly qualified and registered, should sink to the level of a medical practitioner and be subject to ostracism and ruin on the grounds of “unprofessional conduct” of which some Fleet-street Star Chamber is to be the judge, would seem to the whole Press quite intolerable; Government control would stereotype opinion and make democracy even more dangerous.

If salvation is to be attempted it must be achieved through existing bodies, preferably the Newspaper Proprietors’ Association, which has never yet been much more than a nebulous shadow of what it might be. Meanwhile, the discussion itself cannot do any harm and may do some good.

## PENNY POSTAGE

TO question the personal and unaided achievements of Sir Rowland Hill must seem to be almost an act of heresy. Yet fifty years had not passed after the death of the great reformer before a series of vigorous pamphlets appeared

which set out to prove that he himself had actually invented neither the penny postage nor the adhesive stamp.

The pamphlets were written by one Patrick Chalmers, and in them he claimed that both inventions were really due to his father, James Chalmers, who had been a bookseller in Dundee. The first pamphlet appeared in 1883, and was entitled: "A Short Review of the Adhesive Stamp." It consists largely of evidence describing the invention of James Chalmers. On April 6th, 1882, William Whitelaw, a bookseller of Glasgow, had written a letter to the Editor of the *People's Journal*, in which he told how James Chalmers "sent Peter Chrichton, the foreman of his printing office, to set it (a plan of the adhesive stamp) up in type and print a few copies of it. After so doing he brought them up to the binding shop to get them gummed. Previous to that I had been ordered to go to the ink works and bring some gum up and get it dissolved. James Paton then held the paper flat till I brought the gum brush over it, after which I put them down in front of the fire to dry. After they were dry, Thomas Fyfe, the pressman, put the papers into the press, among the smooth boards to smooth them." On May 4th, in the same year a Mr. D. Maxwell, who, at the time, was gracing the waterworks at Hull as Superintendent Engineer, wrote to the Editor of the *Dundee Advertiser*, saying that he had "a distinct recollection of clipping the sample stamps apart after they had been printed on slips containing about a dozen stamps, and the backs gummed over."

Patrick Chalmers produces compelling evidence in support of his father's inventions. He says that in 1872 and 1884 it had been urged that the newspaper stamp should be abolished, and that newspapers should pass through the post for a penny. "Mr. Charles Knight, the eminent publisher, in a publication which he edited, termed *The Companion to the Newspaper*, proposed in the number for 1st June, 1834, that such postage should be collected by selling stamped wrappers of one penny, whereby to prepay the postage. Here it was that Mr. Chalmers interposed with his invention—proposing an adhesive stamp for this purpose in place of a stamp impressed on the wrapper."

His responsibility for the encouragement of the penny postage seems to be equally certain, for, in a further pamphlet of 1884, Patrick Chalmers quotes from a Treasury Minute of March 11th, 1864. It is the one conferring "upon Sir Rowland Hill upon his retirement from active service, his full salary of £2,000 a year," and it mentions "those who, before the development of the plans of Sir Rowland Hill, urged the adoption of Uniform Penny Postage." Although James Chalmers is not mentioned by name, it is more than probable that he is included, since he was well known for his postal reforms in other directions as well. He had, for example, been complimented by the August number of the *Edinburgh Magazine* in 1825, on the improvement which he had effected in the mail service between London and Inverness.

In estimating the value of these pamphlets it is more useful to remember what Sir Rowland Hill was called into the Postal Service to perform and what were the reasons for his appointment, than to reflect on the achievements with which he has been credited. He was, without question, a very great organiser, and he appears to have had an uncanny power over statistics. His educational schemes were in every way as brilliant as his postal reforms, and entitle him to stand with Arnold of Rugby. His organising ability also led to his appointment as Gibbon Wakefield's secretary in the scheme for colonising South Australia.

It was not, therefore, as an inventor that he was summoned to the Post Office, but as an organiser and as a mathematician. And the manner in which he worked suggests his indebtedness to predecessors, for he confined himself almost entirely to statistics and history. He found that ever since Charles I had appointed Thomas Witherings to look after the inland posts, postage had been calculated on the distance which a letter had to be carried. This led to some strange results; in Scotland the rate depended on the number of wheels on the carriage. But the system had prevailed unquestioned, save by William Dockwra who, in the seventeenth century ran a penny post in London. How far he influenced Hill, it is impossible to say. At all events, it was as a result of considering statistics that Hill took the unofficial view that expense was incurred not on the roads but at the offices of receipt and despatch, and that if a lesser rate produced more letters it would not matter very much how far they had to be carried.

He therefore issued his famous pamphlet in 1837, in the course of which occurs this interesting sentence: "Perhaps the difficulties might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash which by applying a little moisture might be attached to the back of the letter." It is evident that at this stage Sir Rowland Hill was not convinced of the necessity of the adhesive stamp, and he may well have simply added his voice to a growing chorus of suggestion.

The strength of Patrick Chalmers' pamphlets lies in the fact that whereas Sir Rowland Hill was making theoretical suggestions in 1837, James Chalmers had produced an actual sheet of gummed stamps in 1834.

ROBERT COLVILLE.

### A SHABBY GESTURE

It can hardly be pretended that the sum of £94,686 18s. 10d. is a noble or satisfactory result of the appeal made to all of us to present to the National Memorial to King George V the odd shillings and pence on the credit or debit side of our pass books on a particular day. Either we loved and respected King George V very much and have, since his death, had occasion to realise the unselfish value of his work or we are indifferent to him, his successors, and the monarchical principle. The latter supposition is untenable and we are therefore convicted of the shabby meanness which thinks twice about sixpennyworth of flowers for a servant's grave. It is not well done.



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## Books of The Day

### LIFE FROM DIFFERENT ANGLES

LUCIE DUFF GORDON was a Victorian born out of her time. In the disconcerting broad-mindedness of her outlook she belonged rather to the twentieth century than to the nineteenth. Yet superficially her life also bears some resemblance to that of William Pitt's niece, Lady Hester Stanhope. Both settled down in the Near East to end their days there. Both were highly unconventional in their display of affection for the East and its peoples. Both came to exercise a remarkable influence on the inhabitants of the locality where they took up their abode, the one at Luxor in Egypt, the other on Mt. Lebanon in Syria. But if Lucie Duff Gordon had her peculiarities (smoking a cigar when riding or reading was one of them), she had also a far more level head and more balanced temperament than Pitt's niece.

It was not mere eccentricity that sent her on her travels, but the state of her health. She was deeply attached to her husband and her children and found delight in the cultured circle that used to gather in what was humorously called the "Gordon Arms," and would certainly not have stayed on in Egypt had it not been that a sunny climate was found to be imperative to check her consumptive tendencies. She had gone first to the Cape on doctor's orders and only went out to Egypt when a further change of climate was prescribed for her. Her letters from the Cape and from Egypt, with all their occasional outbursts of sentimental bias, remain to afford proof of that lively humour and keen intellect to which Kinglake and Meredith paid such glowing tributes. There are passages, too, in her Egyptian letters that serve piquantly to remind us, at a time of newly-conceded independence to Egypt, how the Egyptian fellahen in the sixties were praying for British intervention to save them from the misrule of their own Pashas.

Something of her life had been told in her daughter Mrs. Janet Ross' book, "Three Generations of English Women," but the full story had to be left unrecorded till that daughter had died and material that had been over-discreetly suppressed by her could be brought to light. Mr. Gordon Waterfield, in undertaking the task ("Lucie Duff Gordon," John Murray, illustrated, 12s. 6d.), has not only succeeded in giving us an excellent portrait study of Lucie herself, but he has also filled in all her background for us. Many pages are devoted to Lucie's parents—the melancholy and pedantic, John Austin, the author of a famous theory of jurisprudence, and his cheerful, romantic, blue-stockings wife Sarah, and the digression not only throws light on some of Lucie's peculiarities, tastes and intellectual gifts, but also provides some highly entertaining reading. No proposal of marriage by letter could ever, one imagines, have been stranger or more repellent than the semi-legal document John Austin addressed to Sarah and one must be grateful to

Mr. Waterfield for rescuing from obscurity this extremely amusing curiosity. Whatever else she may have inherited from her father, Lucie clearly did not owe to him her sense of humour.

\* \* \*

Another woman who felt the call of the East and who had even greater gifts and greater claims to fame than either Lady Lucie Duff Gordon or Lady Hester Stanhope lies also buried in an Eastern grave. This was Gertrude Bell, who was born a year before Lucie Duff Gordon died at Philae and whose grave is in the country where she gave such splendid service to the Empire.

Ten years have passed since Lady Bell published a series of letters written by her stepdaughter from the age of six to her death. These letters received a warm welcome from an appreciative public, revealing as they did their author's vivid and many-sided personality. Since Lady Bell's death in 1930 her own daughter, Lady Richmond, has discovered in various boxes and cupboards in her parents' house a whole series of other letters written by her stepsister from 1876 to 1892. These are now published by Messrs. Ernest Benn, with interesting explanatory notes and comments by Lady Richmond, under the title "The Earlier Letters of Gertrude Bell" (with eight illustrations, 15s.). They cover Gertrude Bell's school and University days and her first visits to the Near and Middle East.

The Persian letters written in 1892 tell of her engagement to Henry Cadogan—an engagement that did not wholly receive parental encouragement and was to be sadly terminated through her fiancé's sudden death nine months later. They show, as Lady Richmond remarks in her concluding note, that already there had been planted in Gertrude Bell's nature the seed of sympathy with and understanding of Oriental peoples that was to grow and ultimately produce results of inestimable value to her own country. This new series of letters was well worth the publishing for yet another reason: as an illustration of Gertrude Bell's lively spirit and character. "Eternally young," Lady Richmond says, "she lived every minute to the full. The years went by, but they could not chill her warm heart. To the end of her life she remained what she was at the beginning; self-willed, impatient, infinitely loving, pouring herself out in devotion to those dear to her." And so her letters read.

\* \* \*

New Zealanders may not altogether welcome the frankness of the criticism in which Mr. Donald Cowie indulges in his "New Zealand From Within" (Routledge, illustrated, 10s. 6d.). But at least Mr. Cowie is no Paget, M.P., with little or no experience of the country about which he airs his opinions. Mr. Cowie has been seven years in the Dominion and he has equipped himself with a formidable array of facts and figures to support the arguments he presents. One may suspect that at times he writes with his tongue in his cheek and he courageously admits to certain inconsistencies. But this by the way. His book, if it is provocative to anger, is also provocative to thought and in one important particular is at least wholly convincing. That is in connection with New Zealand's

dwindling population and the unwisdom of its continued reliance on its primary products. As Mr. Cowie argues, there can be no real security for New Zealand under these conditions. What is badly needed is a change in New Zealand's economic structure and that can only come with a considerable increase in her population which will both create a substantial home market and develop to the full her many latent resources. Britain, Mr. Cowie contends, could easily provide (by way of guaranteed loan presumably) the funds necessary for bringing about that beneficial change. But on the questions of immigration and Empire development Whitehall unhappily appears to be adopting at the moment the attitude of Brer Fox, of "lying low" and saying "nuthin'."

\* \* \*

An Australian business-man, Scot by descent and proud of the clan to which he belongs, Mr. T. Allan McKay tells us in "Seeing The World Twice" (Robertson and Mullens, Melbourne, illustrated, 7s. 6d.) that he took to extensive travelling, partly to get rid of his own ignorance of world conditions and partly also because he felt there was need for the average Australian to broaden what he calls "the parochial outlook and the egotistical inlook." His book reveals an observant eye for the picturesque and the unusual and much shrewd comment. He took his camera with him on his journeys and the result is a large number of attractive photographic illustrations. Among the conclusions he has reached is the flattering one to the old country: "The British are a great race. They strike me as an unconquerable people."

#### NEW NOVELS

Few novelists have the power of Myron Brinig to hypnotise the reader from the very first page into believing that he is participating in a real drama of life. It is this realism and the art of concealing his art that makes Myron Brinig such a fine and convincing story teller. His latest book, "The Sisters" (Cobden Sanderson, 8s. 6d.), shows him at his best. Everything happens in the most natural way possible. Mr. Brinig does not seem to be in any way pressing his characters on us. They just come and go and in a flash we seem to know exactly what kind of people they are. The three sisters are three very distinct personalities and their characters in each case prepare us for their very different destinies. The second, being the most calculating and having the strongest control over her emotions, to some extent moulds her own fate; the two others let their natural inclinations guide them where they will. Though this is the story of three lives it is still a single story, for by a skilful manipulation of the threads of each life Mr. Brinig manages to weave them into one pattern.

The scene of Mr. Brinig's tale is America and so, too, is that of Miss Margaret Flint's prize-winning novel "The Old Ashburn Place" (Harrap). This is about a large and mixed farming family and the complications arising out of them all (married or unmarried) occupying the same house. The main characters are two brothers who, despite every cause for dissension and enmity

between them, retain throughout their affection and understanding of one another. The younger brother, who is the finer man of the two, eventually finds consolation for his disappointment in love, by settling down happily with his brother's family. The excellence of Miss Flint's story, as in that of Mr. Brinig, lies in its naturalness. There is no straining after effects: the situations are just such as the circumstances would inevitably produce; and the characters are real flesh and blood.

Miss Storm Jameson's new book, "Delicate Monster" (Nicholson and Watson, 5s.), is a slight affair so far as mere size is concerned; but it is also an elaborate and clever piece of craftsmanship. In setting a woman novelist to analyse with meticulous zeal the character of an actress friend, who still remains a friend despite her treachery, Miss Jameson succeeds in presenting us with an amazingly clear portrait of each of the two women and a story to give point to the portraiture. At the same time she makes amusing use of her woman novelist to poke quiet fun at both writers and critics.

To describe "Only Pain Is Real" (by Robert Westerby, Arthur Barker) as a boxing novel would be to ignore its merits as a psychological study of two brothers, twins but totally unlike both in physique and character. As one of the brothers is a professional boxer the excitements of the ring are an important part of the story and a part, too, that is exceedingly well done. But the boxing is only incidental to the main theme: the pain of disillusionment that comes to the simple-hearted brother who has fought his way to triumph for the sake of helping his twin, only to discover that the latter bore nothing but resentment towards him and was wholly unworthy of his devotion. It is a briskly-written, stirring and tragic tale which, once started on, has to be read to the end.

Miss Hilda Danvers Dearden has introduced a new element into the Ruritanian romance, a male film star who is tired of film popularity and seeks to escape from the never-ceasing attentions of his female "fans." In this rebellious mood the hero of "The Trappings Are Gorgeous" (Robert Hale) is cast by Fate into the company of a Balkan Princess who has been robbed of her rightful throne. He naturally espouses her cause and, after eluding the "hue and cry" of the film company's pursuit, they secure the aid of an airman

friend and get into the Princess' country. She does not win back her throne, but that does not matter very much, since she has definitely found her man. A light but enjoyable tale.

The Basque country is a land of beauty and superstition and certain peculiarities of its own. Princess Paul Troubetzkoy's "Basque Moon" (Robert Hale) succeeds admirably in conveying to the reader all the elements in this unusual atmosphere. "Turncoat," by Raymond Burns (Constable), is of a new class of thriller—the political, with Fascism and Communism to the fore. It is a quick-actioned story in which the interest never flags. Miss Elizabeth Nisot's "Extenuating Circumstances" (Stanley Paul) takes us to Aix en Provence to stage an exciting French abduction case trial and to introduce us to an old, but extremely astute Swiss detective.

The creator of the redoubtable Fu Manchu can usually be relied upon for a story in which love and exciting adventure are cleverly mixed and in which there is an Arch Villain to bring to account. Mr. Sax Rohmer's "White Velvet" has all the ingredients his readers desire and expect, its Master Criminal being the Snow Rat, the leader of the Big Five who run a dope racket.

#### OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

From Heinemann:—"The World of Science," by F. Sherwood Taylor (8s. 6d.).

From Ivor Nicholson & Watson: "American Scene," by Harry J. Greenwall (7s. 6d.).

From Routledge: "Boys' Book of Flying," by Charles Boff (35 illustrations, 6s.).

From Hutchinson: "Our King and Queen" (illustrated, 5s.).

From Hurst & Blackett: "Strangers All," by Daphne K. Forster, and "The Ancestor," by Elissa Landi.

From Stanley Paul: "Suzette," by Florence Lawford, and "The Man They Feared," by T. Arthur Plummer.

From Longmans: "The May Week Murders," by Douglas G. Browne; "Horsemen on Foot," by Mary Nicholson, and "Educating Elizabeth," by Margaret Hassett.

From Robert Hale: "Mirabeau, Lover and Statesman," by Pierre Nezelof (translated by Warre Bradley Wells, illustrated, 12s. 6d.).

From John Bale & Sons & Curnor: "Hunting People" (anonymous, illustrated, 5s.).

From Selwyn & Blount: "Up and Down the Scale," by Dettmar Dressel (illustrated, 12s. 6d.).

#### PUBLISHERS' PLANS

Among books that will be published in the near future are the following:—

"Poor Fred—The People's Prince" (Frederick Louis, father of George III), by Sir George Younger (Oxford University Press); "The Life of the Rt. Hon. Arthur Henderson," by Mrs. Mary Agnes Hamilton, assisted by William Henderson (Heinemann); "An Irishman and His Family: Recollections of the First Lord Morris and Killanin," by Mrs. Wynne (Murray); "Grey Steel" (memoir of General Smuts), by H. C. Armstrong (Arthur Barker).

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## Round the Empire

### RAW MATERIALS OR RAW DEAL?

IT is surely more than a little curious, when one comes to ponder the matter, that Whitehall should have preserved such a complete silence in regard to Herr Hitler's demand for a restoration of the German colonies. If the answer was to be a firm "No," why all this delay in giving it? Whitehall no doubt is anxious to afford the Führer every encouragement in his professed desire for world peace. But that encouragement need hardly take the form of omitting to remove at once all possible grounds for misunderstanding. And if Whitehall really had no intention of yielding to this particular demand, the extent of the misunderstanding on this point could assuredly only be increased, to the grave prejudice of the cause of world peace, by allowing the Führer and his lieutenants to go to the pains of elaborating their arguments for the righting of this "wrong" done to Germany. In view of this silence on the part of Whitehall and its apparent readiness blandly to listen to these further arguments from Berlin and in view, too, of the equivocal and evasive language employed by His Majesty's Ministers in the past when referring to Germany's colonial claims, is it altogether surprising that a disquieting feeling exists that some kind of deal is actually contemplated by the National Government—a deal that would mean the handing over of certain territories to Germany in return for nothing more substantial than mere expressions of goodwill and a deal, too, that could be aptly described as a raw one for the peoples concerned?

Sentiment and the wish to enlist German co-operation in preserving the peace of the world should not be permitted to obscure the truth about this German demand. Since Germany was one of the Powers responsible for starting the last war, she had to pay the penalty of her own wrong-doing and her defeat by losing her colonies. They were taken over by the Allied Powers as part of their compensation for the war that was forced on them. For these colonies they subsequently accepted a Mandate or obligation to administer them for the benefit of their inhabitants. So far from those territories having provided Germany before the war with an outlet for her population or with a large supply of raw materials, the reverse was the case. In 1913 the total German population in her whole colonial Empire amounted to under 20,000, while Germany's imports of raw materials from that Empire were infinitesimal, being .5 p.c. of her total raw material importation. Nor has her trade in any way suffered by the loss of these territories. Under the Mandate system there can be no discrimination against any Power, and in the African territories German trade to-day has progressed far beyond the limits of the pre-war period. When then Herr Hitler bases his demand for a return of the German colonies on his country's dire necessity for raw materials and for

increasing its exports, one may be excused perhaps for wondering whether he is "seeing visions." Mr. W. H. Hughes, Australia's former Prime Minister and at present Commonwealth Minister for Repatriation, has another explanation. "Talk about Germany's right," he said a few days ago in Melbourne, "is part of the propaganda in Germany to distract attention from the failure of dictators to find a solution to economic problems. Germans are made to believe that the loss of colonies has checked their country's expansion and the settlement of her excess population." If Mr. Hughes is right it would be all the more ironical—would it not?—if this demand (really addressed to the German people) succeeded in extorting territorial concessions from Whitehall.

Herr Hitler, in his Reichstag speech, was most emphatic in asserting that "Germany has never demanded colonies for military purposes, but exclusively for economic ones." Human memories are proverbially short, but it is well to remember what the South African statesman, General Smuts, had to say on this subject in the war years 1917 and 1918: "German colonial aims are really not colonial, but are dominated by far-reaching conceptions of world politics . . . . This Central African bloc was to become the recruiting ground of vast armies. The natural harbours on the Atlantic and Indian Ocean were to supply the naval and submarine bases from which both ocean routes could be dominated and British and American sea power brought to naught. . . . The conquered German colonies can only be regarded as guarantees for the security of the future peace of the world." Strategic considerations to-day have also to cover the security of the Empire's air communications, and any break in the all-Empire air route from Kenya to the Cape might hereafter involve very serious consequences. For this reason, apart from the Mandate difficulty, one can hardly imagine that Whitehall would be mad enough to play with the idea of handing back Tanganyika to Germany. There is, however, the other side of Africa—not South-West Africa, of course, for the Union has already put its veto decisively on the return of that territory to Germany. But in Western Africa there is reason to think that Whitehall has discovered the opportunity to satisfy Herr Hitler with a gift which will have the gratifying advantage of coming from all the Allied Powers. Sir Claud Russell (a former Ambassador) has already made the suggestion in a letter to *The Times* and, though *The Times* takes great pains to point out that this letter was written before Herr Hitler spoke, that does not necessarily mean that the Foreign Office knew nothing about it. The suggestion is that Britain should cede to Germany a section of Eastern Nigeria, with access to the sea, and to include the mandated zone which forms the frontier of the colony; to this France would add a portion of the adjoining territory of the Cameroons of equal extent and value; south of this, Belgium would cede her share in the form of a section of the Congo, and to this would be added an equal Portuguese contribution from Angola, with access, presumably, to the mouth of the Congo. "Germany," said Sir Claud, "would thus become the owner of two colonies, richer and

more varied, if not more extensive, than her former possessions. She ought to be satisfied." She ought indeed, but what about the transferred inhabitants—of Eastern Nigeria, for example?

### INDIAN FEDERATION PROSPECTS

After much discussion "about it and about," by special Committees and among themselves, India's Ruling Princes seem to have at last arrived at substantial agreement regarding the precise conditions under which they will be prepared to enter an Indian Federation. Representations, formal and informal, are at present being made to the Viceroy and the Government of India, and the Princes are apparently hopeful that the points of view they have expressed will be duly accepted and receive statutory sanction. The insistence upon statutory sanction is due to the Princes' realisation that official interpretation, however authoritative, cannot be binding on the Federal Court. The existing form of the Instrument of Accession has, of course, no statutory sanction, and the official attitude both in Delhi and Whitehall seems to be that it should be possible to satisfy the Princes' demands so far at any rate as they do not conflict with the spirit and express provisions of the Government of India Act.

Two considerations have had and are having their influence in impelling the Princes to an early acceptance of Federation. One of these is their knowledge that both Delhi and Whitehall are particularly anxious that there should be no very considerable delay between the inauguration of provincial autonomy and the establishment of

Federation. The second is the prospect of Indian Congress strength in several of the Provincial elections and the desire of the Princes to avoid creating in such circumstances any impression that they are and ever will be strenuously opposed to India's political advancement.

### AIR MAIL AGREEMENT

The announcement that the British and Australian Governments have at last agreed on the Empire air-mail scheme is reassuring, although it is plain that many obstacles must be surmounted before the service is inaugurated. At different stages of the negotiations, it appeared that neither Britain nor Australia would make the concessions required by the other. In some respects, Australia's attitude seemed difficult to explain. One of the chief points at issue was the question of the mail surcharge. Australia refused to fall into line with other Empire countries which had agreed to abandon the surcharge. This decision was not so inexcusable as it probably appeared to people who do not understand conditions in Australia. There, the Government has a vast, thinly-populated territory to develop. It is endeavouring to hasten development by fostering internal air services, most of which will require the aid of direct or indirect subsidies for years to come. The abolition of the surcharge would naturally have meant that the Australian Government would have had to finance such subsidies from another source, probably by an increase of direct taxation. That problem has now been solved. Britain has accepted the Australian offer to fix the surcharge at

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fivepence. Discussions in the Australian House of Representatives have already made it clear that this fee will be progressively reduced as economic circumstances permit. Britain has also conceded to Australia control of the Singapore-Sydney section of the route and the right to withdraw from the scheme if dissatisfied.

It would have been strange had the ambitious scheme for linking up the scattered units of the Empire by air been accomplished without a hitch. Probably not even the most optimistic champion of the scheme expected so much. Now it should be possible for the technicians who are working on the details to proceed with their plans in the knowledge that the last big obstacle to the commencement of the service in 1938 has been removed.

### NEW ZEALAND MAKES A MOVE

Since Whitehall has been unable as yet to put forward any concrete proposal for ensuring the success of immigration to the outlying portions of the Empire, one can hardly blame the Dominions for not hastening to suggest that migration from the United Kingdom should be actively resumed. At the same time, it is plain to Imperial thinkers, in the Dominions no less than in Great Britain, that loss of time in redistributing the Empire's population is undesirable, not to say dangerous. For that reason, it is gratifying to learn that the New Zealand Association of Public Schools of Great Britain has decided to revive the system it exploited successfully before the economic depression. That is, it is calling for British public schoolboys who wish to emigrate to the Dominion and take up farming. Each candidate must be able to guarantee that £2,000 or more will be available when he is ready to acquire a holding of his own. The Association undertakes to do the rest. It will arrange for the new settler to be met in New Zealand and placed in employment on a farm where he will be given a thorough grounding in modern methods of primary production. The Association will keep him under its eye while he is training and, finally, arrange for his capital to be invested to the utmost advantage. It is an example that other Dominion non-Government organisations might do well to copy. Of course, the population increase of any Dominion from such sources would necessarily be small. But it is at least a beginning in the right direction and it is a sign perhaps, if only a small one, that New Zealand opinion is not quite so complacent as it has been in the past over its meagre and diminishing population.

### SOUTH AFRICA AND THE CORONATION

South African M.P.'s, according to the *Argus*, have been pressing the Union Government to send to England for the Coronation, a delegation fully representative of all parties and of both Houses of Parliament. The request followed the receipt by the South African Branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association of an invitation from the British Empire Parliamentary Association for six representatives from both Houses to visit London for the Coronation. The invitation, it was understood, embraced the President of the Senate, the

Speaker of the House of Assembly and the party leaders. It was being urged, however, that facilities should be given for a larger representation from the Union Parliament at the Coronation and that the Government should bear the cost as was done at the Coronation of King George V when the Government bore the cost of a delegation of 14 members, seven from each House.

### SOUTH AFRICA ALSO EXPECTANT

The *Cape Times*, in the course of a recent article on the Union Government's Alien Bill, makes it clear that South Africa is also "beginning to call for a sound policy of encouraging immigration." It draws attention to the disquieting features of the recent census—the rapidly falling European birth-rate, a very high native and coloured birth-rate, and a total European population which is only one-fifth of the total population of the Union. "The balance against the white man in South Africa," it says, "is steadily being over-weighted, and it must continue to be so at an accelerating pace unless the white community is reinforced by immigration from overseas. Nor is that the only consideration. We happen also to be perhaps the most prosperous country in the world to-day, and that, whilst it is a factor of security as long as we are members of the British Commonwealth, is also a factor of danger in that it arouses the cupidity of foreign countries." The Union Government has been forced to protect the country against inundation by undesirable aliens and is determined (in the words of the Minister of the Interior) to "see to it that the ideals of our English and Dutch ancestry are maintained and not vitiated." But any British immigration scheme that did not involve any danger of raising the unemployment bogey would obviously be cordially welcomed by the Government and people of South Africa.

### THE PEST AND THE PARASITE

Locusts, as everyone knows, do an unaccountable amount of harm to crops in Africa and in many Eastern countries. Every device that human ingenuity has been able to discover is employed against them: poison bait, spraying with medicated liquid and even the "flame-thrower." But as it has been found impossible to get at the eggs laid in the earth before they are hatched, the locust swarms, year after year, make their appearance with a regularity and persistence that are nerve-racking to the farmer and cultivator. Now at last Nature seems to have come to the aid of man, providing yet another instance of the "Big fleas have little fleas on their backs to bite them" theme.

A parasite which devours locusts' eggs has been discovered in the Vryheid district of South Africa. It is merely a "maggot"—the larva of a species of fly—but it does its work extraordinarily well. Millions of sacs containing 60 to 70 locust eggs each were found to have been "avidly devoured" by these larvæ, their fly parent having thoughtfully deposited its own eggs upon the locust sacs. The problem, of course, still remains to identify the fly, catch it and breed it and let it loose on its beneficent mission.



## Letters to the Editor

### A FORGOTTEN ANNIVERSARY

Sir,—Last Wednesday (February 10) there passed almost unnoticed the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of a man who takes his place among the benefactors of mankind—Lord Lister. Seldom can the services rendered, and the man who rendered them, have been less worthy of oblivion than in the case of Lister. Without his pioneer work in the science of antiseptics, surgery as we know it to-day could never have been, however skilful the fingers behind the knife or needle.

May I, however, do justice through your columns to one group of people whose memory and esteem of the father of safe surgery has never grown dim—the staff, and patients too, of the City of London Hospital for the Heart and Lungs.

From 1896 until he retired in 1909, Lord Lister was Consulting Surgeon to this hospital. And, although in his later years he suffered from the fatigue of a life spent in fighting heavy odds, he left a memory there of great work done, and keen interest in the fine work carried on, which will never be forgotten.

I saw there recently a relic of Lister which is preserved not only as a memento of the associations and interest of a very great man, but as a mark of one of the most far-reaching achievements of all time. It is one of the very few "Carbolic Sprays" now left in existence, Lister's first step on the road to safe surgery by means of antiseptics. Standing against the most up-to-date appliances of modern scientific treatment of heart and lung afflictions, this precious relic shows more clearly than anything else could against what tremendous odds Lister began his life-work, and with what success he achieved its object in the end.

Lister's work goes on still, of course, all over the world, but nowhere with more devoted spirit, or deeper appreciation of its initiator, than in that East End Hospital on which he set his mark indelibly.

R. M. WHYTE.

236, Castellain Mansions, W.9.

### CAUSE OF ROAD ACCIDENTS

Sir,—It is highly desirable that general attention be drawn to that part of the Road Fund Report, just published, which concerns the cause of road accidents. Chief Constables reported 760 accidents during the year ending March, 1936, in 246 of which "slippery surfaces and worn setts, etc.," were alleged to be contributory causes, whilst "blind corners of all kinds, bad visibility, etc.," took a hand in another 266.

It is hard to understand the prolonged failure to take advantage of the undoubted improvements in road-building methods and materials which have recently taken place. The recent report on road research work published by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Ministry of Transport proves conclusively that there is no excuse whatever for laying road surfaces of doubtful safety and durability.

The experimental sections of British materials on the Kingston By-Pass, hot process tarmacadam of slag and granite aggregates, showed a high average skid resistance during their fifth year, although nothing had been spent on maintenance. This proves that highway engineers have it within their power to lay safe and inexpensive surfaces which can stand up to fast and heavy traffic for at least five years.

In all fairness to those concerned with road construction it must be stated that the position shows some improvement, and this is reflected in official figures. But there is no excuse for any slippery roads when the results of official investigation—carried out so thoroughly—are available to all highway authorities.

H. PIKE.

44, Devonshire Street,  
Portland Place, London.

### TIMELESS TESTS

Sir,—Will you allow me to voice the opinion of many cricketers who like myself view with increasing concern the continuance of what have become known as "timeless Tests"? The only advantage, if indeed it can be called an advantage, is that they attract large attendances, at least in Australia, though it is extremely doubtful whether in this country the result would be the same, and consequently large sums are acquired for the respective promoters.

In other words, the great game of cricket is being hopelessly and deliberately commercialised. There are two other great disadvantages:—

(1) Time is of no consequence and the whole essence of the game as played since its inception is lacking; that is, to make more runs than the other side in a given time. Gone is the art of making a subtle and successful declaration; gone is the attraction and excitement of making runs "against the clock" and then finding that it is not possible even to effect a meritorious draw. Anyone who has played cricket in the great spirit and tradition of Francis Ford, Jessop, or Woolley will realise at once what a pitiful loss is being sustained in international cricket to-day. And for what? Merely that more and more money should be made. What a mockery of the game of cricket!

(2) Far too great an importance devolves upon the result of the toss. One distinguished cricketer has recently put it at not less than 100 runs. The side that bats first on a good dry wicket has apparently only one object under the prevailing conditions, and that is to stay at the crease as long as possible, wear down the bowlers, and, by no means least, wear away the wicket, in order that in the fourth innings not great bowling shall prevail but the vagaries of an uncertain pitch.

That, Sir, is not a real test of the game, quite apart from its obvious reduction of enjoyment for the players and spectators alike. Surely those who control the game in this country can take a stand against turning cricket into a business proposition?

The last Test Match at Adelaide was played for six days without any interruption from the weather! It is not difficult to imagine a match

lasting even 10 days with bad weather. It is enough merely to state these facts in order to show up the absurdity of not fixing some reasonable time limit before it is too late to rescue future matches from a creeping paralysis of inactivity.

It took years of argument and talk to change the size of the stumps and the leg-before-wicket rule, but the "timeless" Test has done more to change the whole game of cricket than these two rules put together. The answer no doubt from those in authority—I almost wrote from the "big bosses"—will be: We cannot afford to return to three or four days, and there, Sir, you have the true answer naked and unashamed.

W. B. FRANKLIN.

*Junior Carlton Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.*

### QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Sir,—Parents of well-educated girls and the girls themselves sometimes have a difficulty in deciding upon a future career, but you, Sir, in a recent leading article have given an indication as to a line of country which may profitably be investigated. The subject of your leading article was education, and you drew attention therein to the fact that the insufficient number of applicants for entry to training colleges, which provide the supply of qualified teachers, was causing anxiety. You were referring to teachers in Government schools, but this state of affairs also obtains in regard to the Ambleside Training College for Students, who go out into the world as qualified P.N.E.U. teachers, only in this case it is not so much anxiety as disappointment to parents which is likely to arise.

The Parents' National Educational Union (P.N.E.U. for short) represents a world-wide body of parents who want their children educated from the earliest age on sound, well-thought-out principles, and we find that the demand for our trained teachers exceeds the supply. These teachers are required for private schools, for private education in the home for young children, and for girls up to 17 or 18, and for groups of children whose parents combine to engage a teacher. The steady and constant demand for P.N.E.U.-trained teachers should reassure those who have the gift of teaching, and the desire to teach, that their services will be gratefully welcomed by those wanting trained help for their children. This demand also comes from overseas, which may appeal to the more adventurous spirits.

It is to be hoped that this suggestion of an assured career in a profession which is evidently not overcrowded may commend itself both to the girls themselves and to those who are responsible for them.

ALASTAIR M. GRAHAM.

*President, Parents' National Educational Union, 26, Victoria Street, S.W.1.*

### UNTRAINED SIGHTSEERS

Sir,—Now that another grand picture exhibition is opened may I appeal to London school authorities to be careful how they—with the best intentions—flood the rooms with large gangs of listless and vacuous-minded youngsters, aged about 12-16, in the fond hope of imbuing them with

a taste for fine art. On one occasion I found myself and friends jostled in a throng of sightseers by more than 20 of these lads just as we were squeezed in a doorway between one room and another. I caught the eager question: "Jack, who's got the sweets?" They gave not even a passing glance at the gorgeous works of genius around them. They were horribly bored; nor would any normal boy of their age escape the same fate following on such an experience.

Boys and girls in their teens should be taken to look at pictures only if their minds have been prepared beforehand. Only those who show promise in drawing should be withdrawn from their ordinary lessons. Let them try their hands a few days before at making a pencil drawing of the subjects of two masterpieces, using their imaginations only and thinking out a design. They would then come to the show full of curiosity, and without curiosity nobody learns anything. At present trouble is taken to make them dislike pictures for the rest of their lives.

E. LYTTTELTON.

### WARNING TO INVESTORS

Sir,—Mr. Richard Acland's suggestion in the House of Commons that the Government should supplement the warning to investors, issued by the big banks and the unit trust movement will, it is to be hoped, bear fruit.

It is obvious that, until every man and woman with money to invest is on guard against the dangers of unsolicited investment offers, the "bucket shops" will continue to thrive. Until the necessary legislation can be passed to eradicate this evil, the Post Office with its vast opportunities for propaganda, could well be utilised to convey additional warning throughout the length and breadth of the land.

J. A. AUSTIN.

*69, High Street, London, W.1.*

### MUSIC AND DRAMA

Sir,—May I suggest to the B.B.C. that early morning programmes devoted to physical culture might be given? France, Germany, Italy and Holland have already given a lead. I suggest that there should be a continuous fifteen minutes' programme from six a.m. to eight-thirty a.m., devoted to breathing and physical exercises. A five minutes' introduction would indicate exercises suitable to people of different sexes and ages. The remaining ten minutes would be devoted to rhythmic music.

H.R.B.

*Well Hall Road, S.E.9.*

### CHANGE OF STREET NAMES

Sir,—I have just received the following printed card from a friend of mine which reads as follows:—"The L.C.C. have recently changed the name of High Street, Lambeth, to Lambhithe, but have now decided to change the name again to Lambeth High Street, therefore my correct postal address is:—"

Further comment seems to be needless.

DARCY BRADDELL.

*Victor House, Portman Square, W.1.*

## Your Investments

### WHITHER WALL-STREET ?

**W**ALL-STREET reads Mr. Roosevelt's reform of the Judicature as an attempt to foist on the American people, and the big business people in particular, the New Deal measures which were previously refuted by the Supreme Court. At the best this seems to be admittedly a future threat to capital, yet those who viewed the situation too bearishly have been forced to reconsider the position by the continued advance of stocks on the strength of trade expansion and the working of economic laws which the Government has so far been powerless to prevent.

Copper consumption for January in America is estimated at a new high level, the gain in retail sales for the month exceeded expectations, and steel operations are running at still higher percentages of capacity, all these factors encouraging continued investment demand when unemployed cash resources are seeking an outlet, as in this country. Wall-street then, would appear to be involved in a struggle between natural and artificial forces and events will be watched by British investors with the closest attention, even apart from any direct financial interest which the individual may possess. Governmental interference in financial affairs is one of the most important investment problems of the day and the States are providing an outstanding example of its effects. In the meantime, Wall-street will be loth to lose investment business, and higher prices for "Americans" look inevitable despite Mr. Roosevelt's efforts. Hydro-Electric Securities at 11½ appear due for a rise if the price of around 24½ for Brazil Traction is maintained, for Hydros have a big holding in Tractions.

### THE BANKS AND GILT-EDGED

Contrary to expectations, the averages of the clearing banks of this country for January did not show any decline in investment holdings, which were actually up by over £9,000,000 on the month. This is, however, not entirely a true criterion of the position, for the cheap money policy provides the banks with fuller resources, a portion of which must find its way into investments. It is to the rate of such increase in investment holdings as compared with the rate of increase in advances and loans that attention must be given. Any pronounced decline in the rate of increase in the banks' investments is a sure sign of the over-valuation of gilt-edged, though temporarily it may be offset by a fresh credit injection.

Lord Wardington's analysis of the clearing banks' loans at October 31 last compared with the totals for 1929-30, given at the meeting of Lloyds Bank of which he is the Chairman, was instructive as showing that the banks' resources are ample to finance very much greater activity, financial as well as industrial, before anything like the figures of seven years ago are reached. To do this, however, would presumably entail some transfer of funds from the gilt-edged market, and that is what the holder of gilt-edged stocks who is not forced to retain them should watch.

### SOUTHERN RAILWAY RESULTS

After an interval of six years, dividends are resumed on the deferred ordinary stock of the Southern Railway, the directors recommending payment of ½ per cent. for the past year. The last payment was 1½ per cent. for 1930. The market had not really expected anything more than this, although some optimists were hoping for 1 per cent. The increase in gross receipts on the year was £751,000 and net revenue was up by only £153,863, though this figure was arrived at after calculating charges for rates and contributions to the railway freight rebates fund on the new and more favourable basis. The balance carried forward is slightly lower at £220,809. Southern 5 per cent. preference, a trustee stock, at 121½ yield £4 3s. 6d., while the 5 per cent. preferred ordinary which, of course, gets the full dividend again, returns over 5½ per cent. at the present price of 98. The deferred stock at 25½ returns just under 2 per cent., but obviously offers considerable speculative scope on prospects of improved trade with the Continent and still further suburban development.

Southern 4 per cent. debenture stock at 109 returns about £3 13s. 9d. It is a Trustee stock and likely to remain so, at least during current trade conditions. This is certainly a rather better yield than those obtainable in British Government stocks, but if absolute security is wanted the difference in income hardly seems worth the incurring even of the slightly more speculative flavour which attaches to the semi-gilt-edged stocks such as Trustee home railway debentures. There is, all the time, the wage factor to be taken into account and Home Railway stocks seem chiefly of interest to the semi-speculative investor.

### RICHARD THOMAS DEBENTURES

The 4 per cent. debenture stock recently issued for Richard Thomas and Co., the steelmakers and tinplate manufacturers, to finance their Ebbw Vale scheme looked somewhat expensive at 99½ and with over 70 per cent. left in the hands of underwriters

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the price opened at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  discount. It has since recovered to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  discount and as an investment compares favourably with any debenture stock in the iron and steel section. The yield at the present price is nearly £4 2s. 6d. flat and there is every prospect that, when the stock becomes fully-paid in September next, it is hardly to be expected that it will remain at the present price.

#### HIGH-YIELDING PREFERENCES

An industrial preference share of any class to return 5 per cent. is comparatively rare nowadays, but the 6 per cent. convertible cumulative preference shares of Coast Lines fully give this return at 23s. 6d. The conversion rights give the holder the option of changing into ordinary shares of the company up till 1940, and with Shipping issues in their present active state this option becomes valuable. The ordinary shares have come up to nearly 21s. and the market is looking for something higher than the  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. paid on these ordinary shares last year which, of course, would also improve the investment position of the preference shares.

The high return of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. can be obtained on Van den Berghs and Jurgens, Ltd., 15 per cent. non-cumulative ordinary stock at 13s. 6d. per 5s. unit. Though this industrial investment is by no means in the actual gilt-edged class, profits have always covered the dividend with a substantial margin and the yield is attractive for such a well-established stock.

#### HOTELS

**BAMBURGH, NORTHUMBERLAND.**—Victoria Hotel. Rec., 3. Pens., 6 gns. Tennis, golf, shooting, fishing.

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**CALLENDER, Perthshire.**—Trossachs Hotel, Trossachs. Bed., 50. Pens., from 5 gns. Lun., 3/6; Din., 5/-. Golf, fishing, tennis.

**DUNDEE.**—The Royal British Hotel is the best. H. & C. in all bedrooms. Restaurant managed by Prop. Phone: 5059.

**ELY, Cambs.**—The Lamb Hotel. Bed., 20; Rec., 5. Pens., 5 gns. W.E., £2 15/-. Lun., 3/6; Din., 5/-. Boating.

**FOLKESTONE.**—The ORANGE HOUSE Private Hotel, 8, Castle Hill Avenue; 3 mins. to Sea and Leas Cliff Hall. Excellent table. "Not large but everything of the best"—3-4 gns. Winter, 2 gns.—Prop., Miss Sykes of the Olio Cookery Book.

**HASTINGS.**—Albany Hotel. Best position on the front. 120 rooms. Telephone: 761, 762.

**LONDON.**—Shaftesbury Hotel, Gt. St. Andrew Street, W.C.2; 2 mins. Leicester Sq. Tube. 250 bedrooms. H. & C. Water. Room, bath, breakfast, 7/6; double, 13/6.

**ARLINGTON HOUSE Hotel,** 1-3, Laxham Gardens, Cromwell Road, W.8. Rec., 4; Bed., 35. Pens., from 24 to 5 gns.

**BONNINGTON HOTEL,** Southampton Row, W.C.1, near British Museum. 260 Rooms. Room, Bath and Table d'Hôte Breakfast, 8/6.

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**PERTH, Scotland.**—Station Hotel. Bed., 100; Rec., 4; Pens., from 4 gns.; W.E., from 24/-; Lun., 3/6; Tea, 1/6; Din., 6/-. Garden.

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